

Appl. No. 10/082,375
Amdt. dated Aug. 21, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 21, 2003

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 12 of the specification beginning with “The coating system 100 . . .” with the following amended paragraph:

The coating system 100 employed in the instant invention is capable of applying either electron-beam curable coatings (hereinafter “EB”) and ultraviolet curable coatings (hereinafter “UV”) to the metallic tube. EB coatings include printing inks, varnishes, silicone release coatings, primers, pressure sensitive adhesives, and various barrier coatings. When exposed to a directed electron beam the aforementioned coatings undergo polymerization whereby molecular groupings in the liquid (uncured) coating combine to form a large molecular group known as a polymer. Furthermore, cross-linking of the many polymer chains into an interconnected network of molecular structure of the coating in the final cured coating also occurs as a result of electron beam exposure, thereby producing an enhanced coating that is resistant to elevated temperatures.

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig.1. This sheet adds continuous length of material 1 to the drawing Figure to obviate the Examiner's objection concerning the absence of element 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet